



B A T M A N

LEGENDS OF THE
DARK KNIGHT

NOV 66 DEC 9
196 UPIZ CAN 26



JS
GSM

GOING
SANE

part two de mattenis • staton • mitchell



--POLICE SAY THE BLOATED, DISFIGURED BODY HAS BEEN FLOATING IN GOTHAM BAY FOR WEEKS NOW AND, AS YET, NO POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THE VICTIM HAS BEEN MADE.

INITIAL MEDICAL REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE MAN WAS BRUTALLY BEATEN AND STRANGLER--

--BEFORE BEING THROWN INTO THE BAY.

IN OTHER NEWS-- THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE KIDNAPPING OF COUNCILWOMAN ELIZABETH KENNER CONTINUES.

ALTHOUGH A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF THE REMAINS OF THE "COMEDIA THEATER" WHERE THE COUNCILWOMAN WAS HELD CAPTIVE BY THE JOKER HAS FAILED TO TURN UP ANYTHING SUBSTANTIAL--

--CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES JAMES GORDON HOPES THAT THE JOKER WILL BE FOUND AND APPREHENDED SOON.

COUNCIL- WOMAN KENNER ISN'T CONVINCED...

GORDON TALKS A GOOD GAME, BUT THE FACT IS THIS MANIAL, THIS TERRORIST HAS BRUTALIZED OUR CITY--

--I DON'T THINK I HAVE TO REMIND ANYONE ABOUT THE BOMBING IN PARK RIDGE THAT PRECEDED MY ABDUCTION--

--AND HE REMAINS AT LARGE.

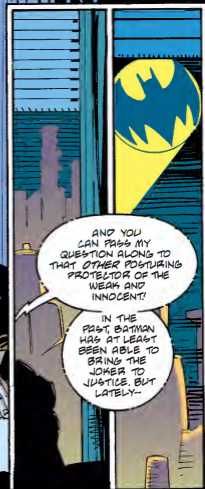
WHY, CAPTAIN GORDON?

IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS SINCE I WAS BEATEN AND DEGRADED AT THAT MONSTER'S HANDS! SINCE THE BLOOD OF GOTHAM'S CHILDREN RAN IN OUR STREETS!

WHY WASN'T ALL YOUR BRAVE TALK TRANSLATED INTO CONCRETE ACTION?

AND YOU CAN PASS MY QUESTION ALONG TO THAT OTHER POSTURING PROTECTOR OF THE WEAK AND INNOCENT!

IN THE PAST, BATMAN HAS AT LEAST BEEN ABLE TO BRING THE JOKER TO JUSTICE. BUT LATELY--





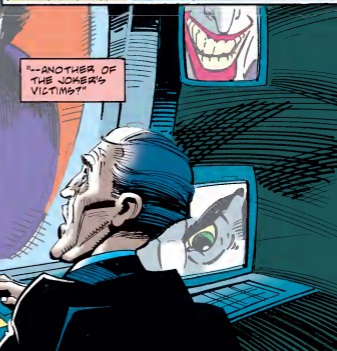
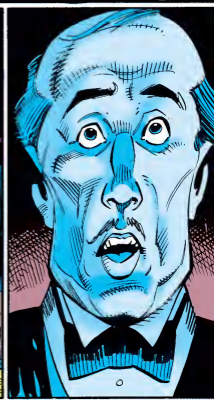
"--HE SEEMS TO HAVE
DISAPPEARED!



"IS HE LOWERING IN A
HOLE SOMEWHERE, AS
AFRAID AS GORDON IS?"



"OR IS HE
PERHAPS--"



--ANOTHER OF THE JOKER'S VICTIMS?

THE MONSTER.

BLACK WINGS. DEAD EYES. AFTER ME ALWAYS AFTER ME.

TRYING TO PUSH ME DOWN. INTO THE RIVER. DROWN ME.

GOTTA RUN AND HIDE. CHANGE MY NAME CHANGE MY FACE-- SO HE'LL NEVER FIND ME!

MY FACE?

THAT'S NOT MY FACE! THAT'S THE MONSTER! THE REAL MONSTER!

PASTY-WHITE SKIN! AWFUL SOULLESS GRIN!

--AND MAKE ME LIKE HIM!

STOP IT! STOP LAUGHING AT ME!

WHY WON'T YOU LEAVE ME ALONE-- BOTH OF YOU?

HE HATES ME! MORE THAN THE BAT DOES! HE'S HUNGRY FOR ME!

WANTS TO CUT UP MY LIFE, SLICE IT TO RIBBONS, KILL ALL THAT'S DECENT AND GOOD IN ME--

I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU! BAT-WINGS, CLOWN-FACE-- PUSHING ME DOWN/ CUTTING ME UP/CAN'T STAY AFLOAT/CAN'T CATCH MY BREATH!

OH, GOD, IT HURTS! OH, GOD I'M DROWNING!

I'M--



--DROWNING!

IS HE
COVERING IN
A HOLE SOME-
WHERE--

JUST A DREAM.
ANOTHER
CRAZY DREAM.

--AS
TERRIFIED
AS GORDON
IS?

OR IS HE
PERHAPS--

--ANOTHER
OF THE JOKER'S
VICTIMS?

ALWAYS HAD BAD DREAMS,
EVEN WHEN I WAS LITTLE.

I'D WAKE UP SCREAM-
ING AND MOMMA'D
COME IN AND TELL ME
IT WAS ALL RIGHT.

"NOTHING TO WORRY
ABOUT, JOSEPH.

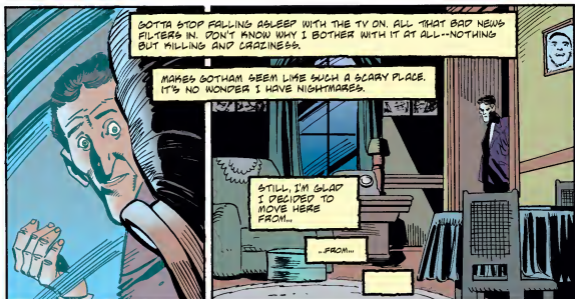
"THE MONSTERS ONLY
COME WHEN YOU'RE
SLEEPING. THEY
CAN'T HURT YOU--



--WHEN YOU'RE
AWAKE."

GOING
Swimming Lessons
SANE?

j.m. De MATTEIS
writer
joe STATON
penciller
steve MITCHELL
inker
willie SCHUBERT
letterer
digital CHAMELEON
colorist
jim SPIVEY
assoc. editor
archie GOODWIN
editor



GOTTA STOP FALLING ASLEEP WITH THE TV ON. ALL THAT BAD NEWS FILTERS IN. DON'T KNOW WHY I BOTHER WITH IT AT ALL--NOTHING BUT KILLING AND CRAZINESS.

MAKES GOTHAM SEEM LIKE SUCH A SCARY PLACE. IT'S NO WONDER I HAVE NIGHTMARES.

STILL, I'M GLAD I DECIDED TO MOVE HERE FROM...

...FROM...



DOCTOR SAID IT'D BE A GOOD CHANGE AFTER MY--ILLNESS. AND WITH MOMMA AND POPPA GONE, WELL... IT'S REALLY TIME I STRUCK OUT ON MY OWN.



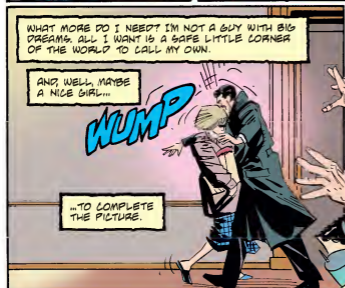
AND THE TRUTH IS, FOR ALL THE BAD STUFF YOU HEAR ON THE NEWS, GOTHAM'S A PRETTY NICE TOWN. AND PARK RIDGE IS A TERRIFIC NEIGHBORHOOD. I'M SO LUCKY I FOUND THIS APARTMENT SO QUICKLY!

YEAH, THINGS'RE LOOKING UP. LIFE'S GOOD.



GOT SOME MONEY IN THE BANK THANKS TO THAT LITTLE INHERITANCE MOMMA AND POPPA LEFT ME...

...A GOOD JOB WITH A REPUTABLE ACCOUNTING FIRM.



WHAT MORE DO I NEED? I'M NOT A GUY WITH BIG DREAMS. ALL I WANT IS A SAFE LITTLE CORNER OF THE WORLD TO CALL MY OWN.

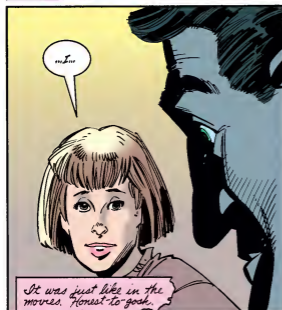
AND, WELL, MAYBE A NICE GIRL...

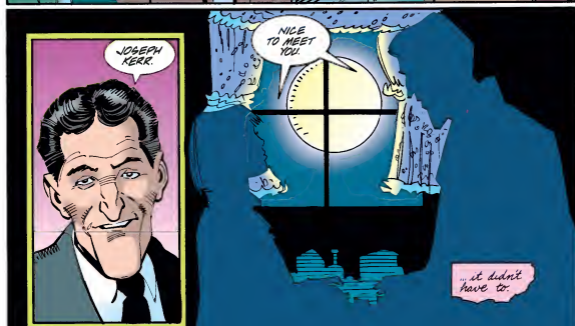
...TO COMPLETE THE PICTURE.

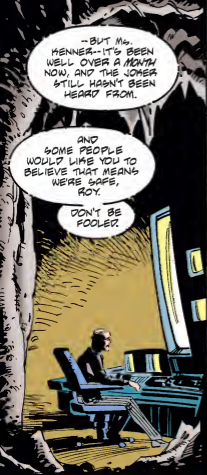


OH, MY GOODNESS!

KLANK



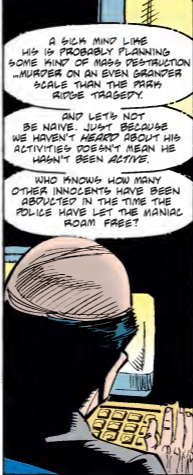




-BUT Mr. KENNER--IT'S BEEN WELL OVER A MONTH NOW, AND THE JOKER STILL HADN'T BEEN HEARD FROM.

AND SOME PEOPLE WOULD LIKE YOU TO BELIEVE THAT MEANS WE'RE SAFE, ROY.

DON'T BE FOOLER.



A SICK MIND LIKE HIS IS PROBABLY PLANNING SOME KIND OF MASS DESTRUCTION ...MURDER ON AN EVEN GRANDER SCALE THAN THE PARK RIDGE TRAGEDY.

AND LET'S NOT BE NAIVE. JUST BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES DOESN'T MEAN HE WASN'T BEEN ACTIVE.

WHO KNOWS HOW MANY OTHER INNOCENTS HOW MANY BEEN ABDUCTED IN THE TIME THE POLICE HAVE LET THE MANIAL ROOM FREE?

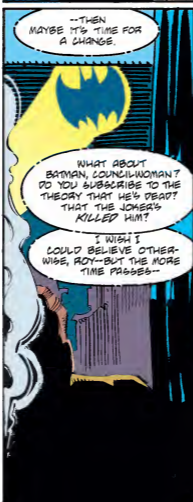


HOW MANY MORE WOMEN MAY BE SUFFERING THE TORMENT THAT I SUFFERED AT THE JOKER'S HANDS?



ARE YOU SUGGESTING A COVER-UP?

ALL I'M SAYING IS THIS: NO ONE IN THIS CITY IS SAFE AS LONG AS THE JOKER IS AT LARGE. AND, IF THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION CAN'T BE TRUSTED TO BRING HIM IN--



--THEN MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE.

WHAT ABOUT BATMAN, COUNCILWOMAN? DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO THE THEORY THAT HE'S DEAD? THAT THE JOKER'S KILLED HIM?

I WISH I COULD BELIEVE OTHERWISE, ROY--BUT THE MORE TIME PASSES--



--THE MORE CERTAIN IT SEEMS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I'VE FOUND A WOMAN LIKE REBECCA. SOMEONE WHO APPRECIATES ME. WHO ENJOYS WHAT I ENJOY.

WHO'D RATHER WATCH OLD MOVIES THAN PAY SEVEN DOLLARS FOR THE JUNK THEY'RE PUTTING OUT NOW...

...RATHER LISTEN TO TAPES OF 40'S RADIO SHOWS THAN WATCH THE GARBAGE ON TV...

...RATHER DANCE TO TOMMY DORSEY THAN BE DEAFENED BY THE NOISE THAT THEY CALL MUSIC THESE DAYS.

WHAT A DELIGHT TO COME HOME, KNOCK ON HER DOOR, AND FIND HER WAITING FOR ME.

TO SPEND A QUIET EVENING TOGETHER, PLAYING CARDS AND LISTENING TO "JACK BENNY."

WHAT MORE CAN A MAN ASK?

JOSEPH... SWEETHEART-- WHAT IS IT?

JOSEPH?

I'M ALL RIGHT, HONEY. REALLY.

ARE YOU SURE? IF THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG, DARLING, I WANT TO KNOW.

I HAVE YOU IN MY LIFE--

I used to worry about him so much, during his "episodes."



...WHAT
COULD BE
WRONG?

They didn't come often - not at first, anyway - and they didn't last long... but I couldn't help being concerned about him.

I knew he hadn't been well before he came to Gotham; he said something once about "a little breakdown," and there were those pills he was forever taking for his skin condition.

But he didn't talk about his illness and I wasn't one to pry. Why should I?

In six weeks he'd transformed my entire life. Brought me more happiness than I'd ever dreamed was possible. More happiness, certainly, than I deserved.

It was like living in a cocoon. Then: just Joseph, me - and occasional visits from George Burns and W.C. Fields, Fred Allen and Baby Snooks.

We'd joke sometimes - after a night passed with one of the old comedies we were forever renting, or the vintage radio tapes Joseph and I'd spend half our combined salaries on - that the world outside our door was bound to change.

That, one night, we'd walk into the street and it'd be the 1940s. It'd be a time and a place where we both belonged.

It was love, pure and simple. It was magic. So why worry? Looking back...



...I should have worried more.



HE HATES ME! MORE THAN THE BART DOES!
HE HATES ME! MORE THAN HIS HUNGRY FORM ME!

HE HATES ME!
I'LL GET HIM!
I'LL GET HIM!
I'LL GET HIM!

TRYING TO PUSH ME
DOWN INTO THE
RIVER. DROWN ME!

WANTS TO CUT UP MY LIFE
SLICE IT TO RIBBONS, HILL
GOOD IN ME...

THE MONSTER

HE KNOWS WE'RE NOT
IN THE FRONT!
HE KNOWS WE'RE NOT
IN THE FRONT!

BLAME MY EYES
EVERYONE'S DEAD
EVERYONE'S DEAD
EVERYONE'S DEAD

MY EYES ARE
GONE!
MY EYES ARE
GONE!

YOU! I HATE YOU!
I HATE YOU!
I HATE YOU!
I HATE YOU!

IKK!

GO TO HELL!
GO TO HELL!
GO TO HELL!
GO TO HELL!

MY FACE!

WHY WON'T
YOU LEAVE
ME ALONE--
BOTH OF
YOU?

AND MAKE ME
LINE HIM!

OH, GOD IT HURTS!
OH, GOD IT HURTS!
OH, GOD IT HURTS!
OH, GOD IT HURTS!



--DROWNING!

THE DREAM, AGAIN. BUT WORSE THIS TIME. WHY DOES IT SCARE ME SO?



MAKES ME FEEL LIKE THE WHOLE WORLD'S CLOSING IN ON ME...



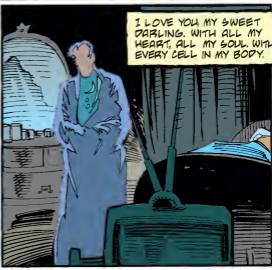
OH, REBECCA. JUST LOOKING AT YOU CALMS ME. AS LONG AS YOU'RE THERE BESIDE ME, I KNOW THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF. I KNOW LIFE IS GOOD.

NO, NOT JUST GOOD.

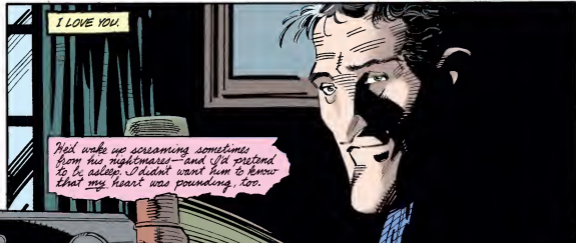


...LIKE THERE'S SOMEONE INSIDE OF ME WITH A KNIFE TRYING TO HACK HIS WAY OUT. LIKE--

BLESSED.



I LOVE YOU MY SWEET DARLING. WITH ALL MY HEART, ALL MY SOUL, WITH EVERY CELL IN MY BODY.



I LOVE YOU.

He'd wake up screaming sometimes from his nightmares--and I'd pretend to be asleep. I didn't want him to know that my heart was pounding, too.

That I could feel his terror, his confusion, radiating off him in waves. But the funny thing is...

...it only made me love him more.

Love? Love is too small a word for what I felt. I wasn't exactly the kind of woman who'd had lots of men in her life.

I was thirty-five, never married—yet here I was living with a man, sleeping beside him every night! A man I'd known for less than three months!

Joseph Kerr
1100 Ocean
Gotham

When I told Mother about Joseph, I thought she'd be shocked. But she was just happy for me. "He sounds wonderful," she said. "I can't wait to meet him."

And he was wonderful. Gentle. Kind. Thoughtful.

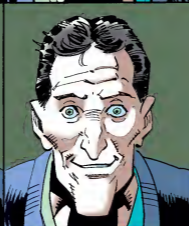
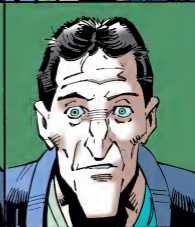
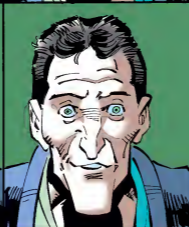
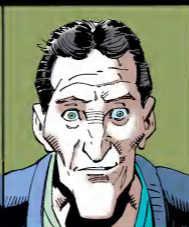
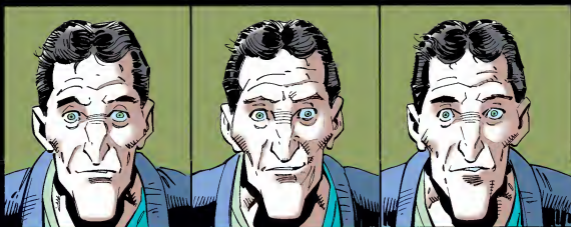
Had buy me flowers, bring me chocolates, for no reason at all.

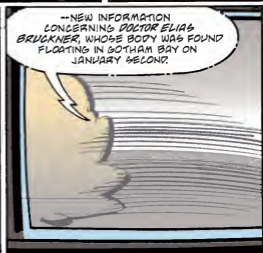
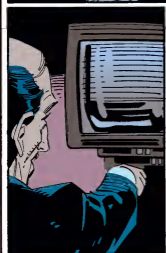
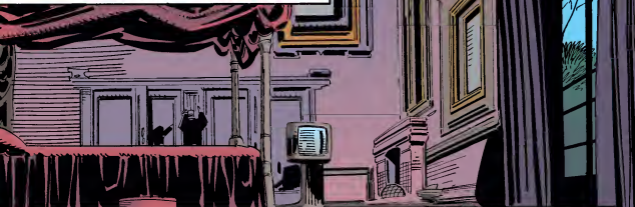
He was a jewel, my Joseph was. A treasure.

But I know—even as I struggled to deny it—that there was something wrong.

Some secret pain, some hidden sorrow...

Joseph Kerr
1100 Ocean
Gotham





BAUMNER--A PLASTIC SURGEON WHO ALLEGEDLY SPECIALIZED IN PROVIDING NEW FACES FOR WANTED CRIMINALS--

--HAS NOW BEEN LINKED TO THE JOKER. RECENTLY-ARRESTED BURGLAR FRANK MAGUIRE CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN THE TWO MEN TOGETHER SHORTLY AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF THE "COMEDIA" MOVIE THEATER--

--WHERE THE JOKER WAS TEMPORARILY HEADQUARTERED--

THIS HAS FUELED RUMORS THAT THE JOKER--NEVER APPREHENDED AFTER THE PARK RIDGE "CIRCUS BOMBING" AND THE KIDNAPPING OF COUNCILWOMAN ELIZABETH KENNER-- IS STILL AT LARGE IN GOTHAM.

ADDING TO THE ESCALATING TENSIONS IN OUR CITY IS THE GROWING BELIEF THAT THE BATMAN-- NOT SIGHTED SINCE THE NIGHT OF MENNER'S KIDNAPPING--

--WAS KILLED WHILE TRYING TO APPREHEND THE JOKER.

AS A RESULT, THE WAR OF WORDS BETWEEN COUNCILWOMAN MENNER AND DETECTIVE CAPTAIN GORDON HAS HEATED UP AGAIN.

IN AN ANGRY CONFRONTATION WITH GORDON ON THE STEPS OF CITY HALL, MENNER--WHO HAS BECOME THE OFFICIAL SPOKESPERSON FOR THE "PARK RIDGE SURVIVOR'S GROUP"--

--DEMANDED THE RESIGNATIONS OF BOTH THE CAPTAIN AND THE MAYOR.

ALL THIS TIME, CAPTAIN GORDON--AND NOT SO MUCH AS A WORD FROM YOUR DEPARTMENT.

NOT EVEN A SCRAP OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE JOKER OR--

WE'VE BEEN DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

NOTHING PLUS NOTHING IS STILL NOTHING, GORDON!

MS. KENNER--I WOULD BE HAPPY TO MEET WITH YOU AND YOUR SUPPORTERS PRIVATELY--BUT THIS LITTLE MEDIA CIRCUS YOU'VE ARRANGED IS EXTREMELY DISTASTEFUL.

I REFUSE TO PERFORM LIKE A MONKEY FOR THE PRESS!

YOU CAN'T SILENCE THE JOKER'S VICTIMS THAT EASILY, CAPTAIN!

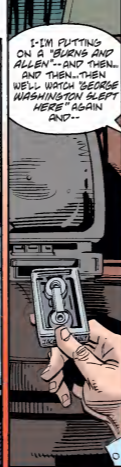
JUSTICE WILL BE--

klik

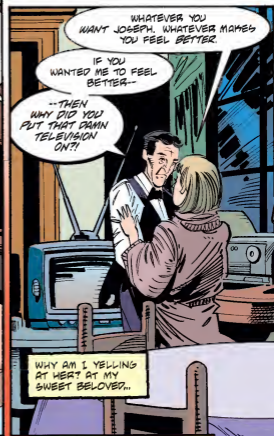


STUPID EXPLOITIVE TRASH!
YELLOW JOURNALISM!

NOTHING
BUT UGLINESS
AND DISTORTIONS!
FILTH AND
LIES!



I'M PUTTING
ON A "BURNS AND
ALLEN"--AND THEN...
AND THEN...THEN
WE'LL WATCH "GEORGE
WASHINGTON SLEPT
HERE" AGAIN AND--



WHATEVER YOU
WANT JOSEPH. WHATEVER MAKES
YOU FEEL BETTER.

IF YOU
WANTED ME TO FEEL
BETTER--

--THEN
WHY DID YOU
PUT THAT DAMN
TELEVISION
ON?!

WHY AM I YELLING
AT HER? AT MY
SWEET BELOVED...



BUT,
JOSEPH... HONEY...
I DIDN'T PUT IT
ON... YOU DID,
REMEMBER?



WHEN
YOU CAME
HOME FROM
WORK AND
LAID DOWN
ON THE
COUCH?

YOU SAID
IT HELPS YOU
SLEEP TO HAVE IT
ON IN THE BACK-
GROUND--

...REBECCA?



...I...



PASTY-WHITE SKIN!
AWFUL SOULLESS
GAIN!

HE HATES ME!
MORE THAN THE
BAT DOES! HE'S
HUNGRY FOR ME!



I DID NOT!

WANTS TO CUT UP MY LIFE, SLICE IT TO RIBBONS...

...KILL ALL THAT'S DECENT AND GOOD IN ME...

...AND MAKE ME LIKE HIM!

OH, GOD... OH, GOD, REBECCA--



--I'M SORRY!

JOSEPH?

That night, when he got so angry, when he almost hit me... I shouldn't have let him go. I should have gone after him...



JOSEPH-- WAIT!

...followed him into the elevator...

...made him come with me to see a psychiatrist right then and there.

Why didn't I?



I guess, deep down,
I didn't want to.

I guess, deep down, I was
afraid that, if I took
Joseph to a doctor, if we
found out what was
really troubling him...

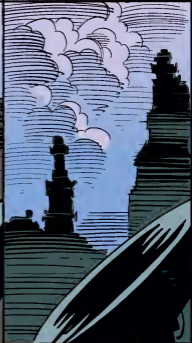


Funny thing
is, in the end...

...hid
change...

...and I'd lose
the only man who
ever loved me.

...I lost him anyway.



Things got better after that. Or maybe I convinced myself that they did.



No, they did get better. In the following weeks, Joseph was happier than ever. No more odd behavior. No more of his "episodes."



REBELLA...?

Well, the nightmares continued... but I was always there to comfort and love him.



SLEEPING BEAUTY--

And he did the same for me.



--AWAKE!

I don't know what was sweeter: the scent of all these flowers...

...or the sound of Tommy Druzy and Frank Sinatra, drifting in from the living room. "I'll Be Seeing You."



JOSEPH... OH, MY GOODNESS--



It was our favorite song.

We'd play that scratchy old record over and over again, dancing the night away.

--WHAT IS ALL THIS?

--IS OUR SIX-MONTH ANNIVERSARY.



WHAT IT IS, SWEET PRINCESS--

I swear, we must have worn that rug right through.

WHAT IT IS--



--IS OUR HAPPILY EVER-AFTER.



REBELLA, JOY OF MY HEART--

--LOVE OF MY LIVES--





How could I not believe in happily-ever-afters and true love with a man like that?

I'd found my very own Prince Charming. And I was determined to be his Sleeping Beauty, forever and ever...



...and ever.

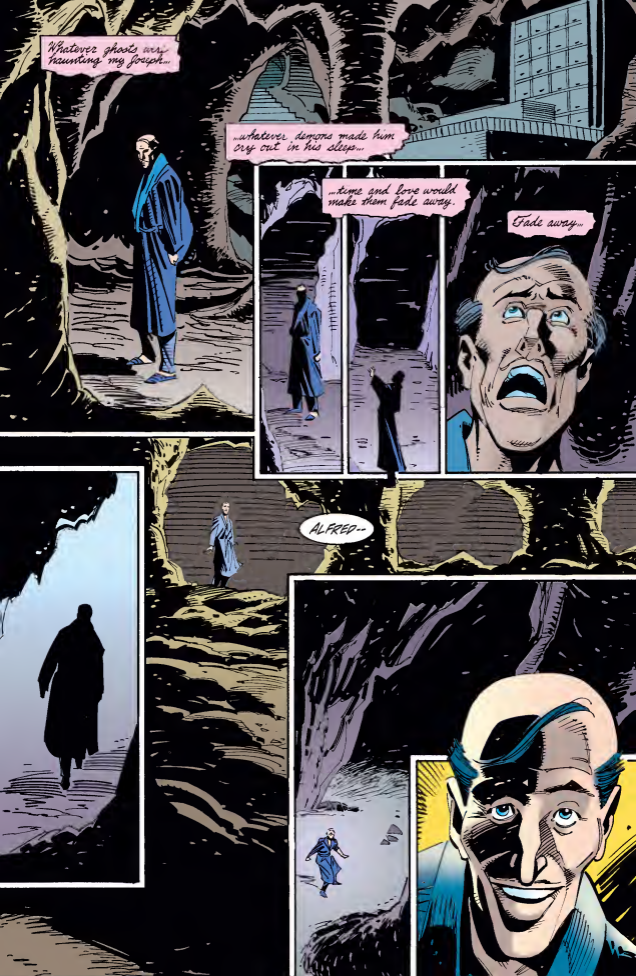
Whatever ghosts were haunting my Joseph...

...whatever demons made him cry out in his sleep...

...time and love would make them fade away.

Fade away...

ALFRED--



...and never come back

*--I'M
BACK.*

next month:
GOING SANE
part three—
*Breaking
the Surface!*

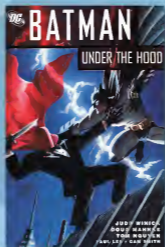
MORE CLASSIC TALES OF THE DARK KNIGHT

BATMAN: HUSH



JEPH LOEB
JIM LEE

BATMAN: UNDER THE HOOD
VOLS. 1 & 2



JUDD WINICK
DOUG MAHNKE

BATMAN:
THE LONG HALLOWEEN



JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN:
DARK VICTORY



JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN:
HAUNTED KNIGHT



JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN:
YEAR 100



PAUL POPE

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